

A. I. D. S. A. L. L. H.

I, GEORGE A. FITCH, American citizen, born in Soochow, China, on January 23, 1883, being first duly sworn, do make the following statement:

That I have been in China from December 1909 to December 21, 1945, except for occasional furloughs in the United States and elsewhere as a secretary of the International Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s, New York, and from December 21, 1945, to the present as Deputy Regional Director for U.N.R.R.A.; that I was in Nanking from the summer of 1936 until on or about 15 February 1938, and at the time of the occupation of Nanking by Japanese military forces and until on or about 15 February 1938 acting as Director of the Safety Zone; that the following excerpts or paraphrases, taken from a diary which I kept at that time, are true:

Many hundreds of innocent civilians are taken out before your eyes to be shot or used for bayonet practice and you have to listen to the sound of the guns that are killing them. It seems to be the rule here that anyone who runs must be shot or bayoneted. We happened to be beside the Ministry of War at the time, and it was all too evident that execution was going on, hundreds of poor disarmed soldiers with many innocent civilians among them.

On December 15, I saw approximately 1300 men, all in civilian clothes, just taken from one of our camps near our headquarters, lined up and roped together in groups of about 100 by soldiers with fixed bayonets. In spite of my protests to the commanding officer, they were marched off to be shot. December 19 was a day of complete anarchy. Several big fires were raging, started by the soldiers, and more are promised. The American flag was torn down in a number of places. The military have no control over the soldiers.

Monday, December 20, vandalism and violence continued unchecked. All Taiping Road, the most important shopping street in the city, was in flames. I saw many Japanese army trucks being loaded with the loot which they were taking from the shops before setting fire to them, also witnessed one group of soldiers actually setting fire to a building. I drove next to the Y.M.C.A. which was already in flames, evidently fired only a short time previously. That night I counted fourteen fires from my window, some of them covering considerable areas.

The Japanese observe no system in seizing people from our camps. Callouses on hands or cropped heads are proof sufficient that the man was once a soldier, and a sure death warrant. Practically all of our camps have been entered time and again by bands of soldiers who have taken whom they willed for shooting.

On December 22, 1937, I saw about fifty corpses in some ponds a quarter of a mile east of my office. All were dressed in civilian clothes, most of them with hands bound behind their backs, and one with the top half of his head cut completely off. Subsequently I saw hundreds of bodies of Chinese, mostly men but a few women, in a similar condition, in ponds, on the streets, and in houses.

Our committee made daily reports to the Japanese Embassy of atrocities.

/s/ George A. Fitch
GEORGE A. FITCH

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 18th day of June 1946:

/s/ Thos. H. Morrow
Colonel Thos. H. Morrow, IGD